

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

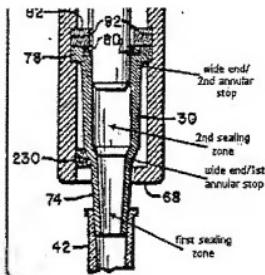
Claims 1-4 are currently pending and Claims 5 and 6 are currently added. No new matter has been added. Support for Claims 5 and 6 is found at least in paragraph [0019].

Regarding the objection to the drawings, a replacement drawing sheet for sheet 1 is submitted herewith. The replacement drawing sheet has removed reference numerals 8 and 9. The sheet is marked "Replacement Sheet". Additionally, amendments to paragraphs [0009]-[0011] and [0013]-[0015] of the Detailed Description add the reference numerals 10-12 which had been inadvertently omitted from the written description. No new matter has been added.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Yonkers (US Patent No. 4,599,220), and the rejection of Claim 2 under U.S.C. §103(a), independent Claims 2 and 4 each call for a first and second conically tapered sealing zones and a first annular pipette tip stop being substantially perpendicular to the axis defining the first and second conically tapered sealing zones.

In contrast, Yonkers discloses only one sealing zone and fails to disclose even one tip stop as called for by Claim 2 and 4. The features referenced as the "wide end/1st annular stop" and the "2nd sealing zone" (cylinder 30) in the Examiner's illustration (copied below) are segregated from the tip of pipette 42 on one side by flange 68 of cover 25 and on the opposite side by foot 230 and notches 232 of plate 40. Arcuate grooves 224 (Fig. 2) disclosed by Yonkers also "received the sides of the cylinders 30" (Col. 4, line 62-Col 5, line 5). Thus, because these features cited by the Examiner cannot be

engaged by a pipette 42, neither a second sealing zone nor a first or second annular stop as called for by Claims 2 and 4 are disclosed by Yonkers.



Additionally, even if the feature cited is a “1st annular stop”, as illustrated in Fig. 3 of Yonkers, the feature is not substantially perpendicular to the axis defining the first sealing zone as called for by Claims 2 and 4. Specifically, the feature cited by the Examiner appears to be approximately 20 to 30 degrees relative to the axis defining the first sealing zone. Thus, the feature as disclosed is clearly closer to being parallel to the axis rather than substantially perpendicular. Additionally, the written description of Yonkers does not indicate nor suggest any alternative orientation.

The first annular pipette tip stop being substantially perpendicular contributes to an important feature and advantage of a device according to Claim 4. Specifically, that the attachment and ejection of tips requires only a minimal amount of force (paragraph [0003]), and more specifically:

Because of the cooperating geometry of first sealing zone 1, first stop 5.6 and the pipette tip, the pipette tip will not be engaged so tightly so as to be difficult to eject. In particular, a force of less than 0.8 kg (1.8 lbs.) will be required to eject the pipette tip from the mounting shaft. This compares favorably to the ejection force of typical pipettes, which require 4 kg. or 8.8 lbs. of force.

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(paragraph [0012], underlining added).

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and timely examination to that end is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further questions regarding any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at (317) 891-1500.

Respectfully submitted,


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